

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 MCT-01 SY-05 ACDA-12 COME-00 EB-08
OMB-01 /114 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:JKBISHOP:MAR
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
M/CT:HISHAM
L/NEA:DSMALL
H:RFLATEN
-----113706 301859Z /45

P R 301840Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166723

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PINS, AG, MO, FR, SP, MR

SUBJECT: ALGERIA AND TERRORISM LEGISLATION

1. ALGERIAN POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON AFN DIRECTOR BISHOP JUNE 28 TO INQUIRE ABOUT JUNE 24 NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE WHICH QUOTED "STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES" AS STATING ALGERIA MIGHT BECOME SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE APPLIED AGAINST LIBYA AS PART OF ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM (SUMMARY OF ARTICLE CABLED SEPTEL).

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2. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS, BISHOP EXPLAINED THAT UNAUTHORIZED STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO UNNAMED STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES WERE AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO RIBICOFF LEGISLATION EXPLAINED ELSEWHERE IN ARTICLE. ADJALI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DEPARTMENT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HAD POINTED OUT TO ALGERIAN OFFICIALS POSSIBILITY THEIR RELATIONS WITH ORGANIZATIONS PRONE TO EMPLOY TERRORISM COULD LEAD TO IMPOSITION OF SANC-

TIONS SPECIFIED IN EXISTING OR PROPOSED LEGISLATION.
BISHOP EXPLAINED TO ADJALI THAT DEPARTMENT'S EARLIER ADVICE
HAD BEEN SOLELY FOR PURPOSE OF ALERTING ALGERIAN FRIENDS TO
A POTENTIAL PROBLEM IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WHICH U.S.
WANTED EARNESTLY TO AVOID, AS THOSE RELATIONS HIGHLY APPRE-

CIATED BY U.S. ALGERIANS SHOULD NOT INTERPRET ARTICLE
AS REFLECTING ANY STATE DEPARTMENT DECISION TO INCLUDE
ALGERIA ON LIST CALLED FOR BY RIBICOFF BILL. IF THE
BILL PASSED IN A FORM CALLING FOR A LIST, LIST WOULD BE
PREPARED ACCORDING TO LAW'S TERMS, AND THERE NO REASON TO
CONCLUDE AT THIS POINT THAT ALGERIA WOULD BE INCLUDED ON
LIST.

3. ADJALI REPLIED THAT ALGERIA GOVERNMENT FORESEES CON-
TINUING IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, MENTIONING
PARENTHETICALLY THAT IN THIS EXPECTATION AMBASSADOR MAOUI
DURING RECENT CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED BOUMEDIENE'S
AUTHORIZATION TO EXPAND EMBASSY STAFF AND TO PURCHASE
PROPERTY NECESSARY TO BUILD LARGER CHANCERY. ADJALI
REITERATED ALGERIAN SUPPORT FOR POLISARIO AND SUGGESTED
THAT TO AVOID TERRORISM BECOMING A PROBLEM IN ALGERIAN-
AMERICAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, U.S. URGE MOROCCANS TO SEEK
PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF SAHARA DISPUTE WITHIN OAU UMBRELLA.
REMINING ADJALI U.S. HAS CONSISTENTLY URGED BOTH RABAT
AND ALGIERS TO SEEK A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION, BISHOP
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SUGGESTED POLISARIO COULD BE COUNSELED TO AVOID ACTIONS
WHICH COULD FALL WITHIN RIBICOFF BILL'S DEFINITION OF
TERRORISM. AMIABLE MEETING CONCLUDED WITH AGREEMENT THAT
IN THEIR PRESENT FORM SANCTIONS OF RIBICOFF BILL WOULD NOT
INTERFERE SERIOUSLY WITH BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS BUT
MUTUAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT SUBSEQUENT LEGISLATION TIED
TO RIBICOFF BILL COULD SPECIFY MORE PAINFUL PENALTIES FOR
GOVERNMENTS DETERMINED BY U.S. TO BE SUPPORTING TERRORISM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE166723
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JKBISHOP:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780271-0331
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978062/aaaaabgl.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9807ee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2206156
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALGERIA AND TERRORISM LEGISLATION
TAGS: PINR, PINS, SOPN, AG, MO, FR, SP, MR, US
To: ALGIERS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9807ee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014